

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6905

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2272

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON XM TD

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON
PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

REF: STATE 201740

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ON SEPT. 20 CONVEYED US VIEWS AND INTENDED COURSE OF ACTION ON THE DRAFT AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE (REFTEL) TO THE HEAD OF THE GOTT EXTAFF LEGAL DIVISON (LENNOX BALLAH) AND HIS DEPUTY (PHILLIP SEALEY) WHO IS IN CHARGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE.

2. BALLAH AGREED THAT THE CONFERENCE COULD DEAL SUCCESSFULLY WITH ONLY A FEW TOPICS AND THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE EASIER IF THESE TOPICS WERE SELECTED WELL IN ADVANCE. HE SAID THAT HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT THE GOTT HAD A GREATER INTEREST IN DEALING WITH ITEM 8 (RECOGNITION AND EXECUTION OF FOREIGN JUDICIAL JUDGMENTS) AND ITEM 9 (TAKING OF EVIDENCE ABROAD IN CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS) THAN IN THE THREE TOPICS FAVORED BY THE USG. AMONG OTHER REASONS, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOTT HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN ENFORCING LEGAL JUDGMENTS FOR SUPPORT
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AGAINST ITS CITIZENS WHO TOTALL ABANDONED THEIR FAMILIES
HERE WHEN THEY LEFT THE COUNTRY AND IT WOULD LIKE TO

IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

3. BALLAH HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE CONFERENCE DEALING WITH ITEM 7 (PROCEDURES FOR LETTERS REQUISITORIAL AND LETTERS ROGATORY) AND WITH ITEM 10 (LEGAL SYSTEM FOR POWERS OF ATTORNEY TO BE USED ABROAD) SINCE HE BELIEVED THERE WAS ALREADY WIDE AGREEMENT ON THESE TOPICS WHICH WOULD FACILITATE RAPID CONCLUSION OF THE ONVENTIONS AND A GOOD BEGINNING FOR THE CONFERENCE. ITEM 5 (INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION) WAS OF LESS INTEREST TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, BALLAH SAID, AND WOULD BE A VERY COMPLICATED AND CONTENTIOUS MATTER WHICH THE CONFERENCE WOULD NOT EASILY RESOLVE.

4. ACCORDING TO BALLAH, THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOTT DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE WILL DEPEND ON THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED BUT WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND THE HIGH COURT IN ADDITION TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. ALTHOUGH NO DELEGATES HAVE YET BEEN SELECTED, WE EXPECT THAT BALLAH WILL HEAD THE DELEGATION.
MILLER

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